

NPIC/D-155-70

12 MAY 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, DDI Special Research Staff

SUBJECT : Comments on Proposed Paper on DDI Research

John:

As you know, NPIC was exempted from the DDI research inventory
[redacted] when it was established several months ago. However,
I think you have done a fine job in trying to throw a lariat around
this elusive subject. I believe you are on the right track in the
three categories of research that you have defined.

[redacted]
Executive Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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NPIC/ODIR: [redacted] (11 May 70)

Declass Review by
NIMA/DOD

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Remarks:

Review and Comment, COB, 13 May 1970.

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CH/DDI/SRS/ <input type="text"/>	4 May 70

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET


4 May 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT : Review and Comment on Attached
Draft (Research in the Directorate --
What It Is and How to Think About
It)

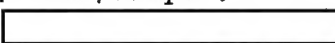

1. The DD/I has asked that the attached memorandum be reviewed and commented upon from the point of view of reaching an agreed approach to handling the periodic inventories of DD/I Research. Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft memorandum are directed specifically to that point.

2. May I have your comments and suggestions by
COB, 13 May 1970.


Chief, DD/I Special Research Staff

Attachment: As stated above

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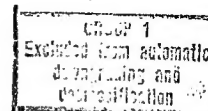
20 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Research in the Directorate --
What It Is and How to Think About It

1. Some will be more amused than others to learn that the Latin root of the word "research", circare, translated literally means, "to go round in a circle". It is apt. The more one researches research the more intense the vertigo, until truth dawns -- research is in the eye of the beholder.

2. The wide range of meanings which can be, and are, applied to the term "research", bracket almost any activity or product involving the use of information, the thought process, and a pencil and paper. Research is divisible by the kinds of sources used, the things researched, the methods used, the purposes envisaged, time expended, and detail of inquiry, to enumerate a few. Within the wide array of criteria, one finds some constants associated with the research concept--systemic, careful, unbiased, trained scientific investigation, collecting, organizing and evaluating data, and making deductions and conclusions. The task is to reduce the concept to proportions meaningful and appropriate to the work of the Directorate.



S-E-C-R-E-T

3. Clearly, the Directorate, as an organization charged with the production of finished intelligence in support of national security policy, will look at research in a certain way. It often will see the research product as finished intelligence, but more frequently and more specifically as research in direct support of the production of finished intelligence. It will see research as encompassing wide areas of subject matter and source materials, because of the substantive breadth of the Directorate's mission and of its data base. And the Directorate will regard research as an integral part of its total activity and production because virtually every professional in the Directorate dealing with substance is engaged in research to some extent. Even a one paragraph item in the CIB reporting a political event is subjected to the research process to evaluate its accuracy and importance. It is, therefore, in some part a research product. Other Directorate publications may be a year in the making, of book length, and conceived entirely as research products.

4. Confusion in some quarters regarding the state of research in the Directorate may stem from a tendency to regard analysis and research as not only different processes, which they are, but as unrelated processes independent of one another, which they are not. The (continued on Page 3)

fact is that research and analysis both pervade the Directorate, co-mingle in it, and produce hybrid issue in which it is often impractical to sort the one from the other in either the process or the product.

5. All this being said, there is difference in degree, significant at the extremes of the scale, between an intelligence product that is primarily analytical or interpretive but has involved substantial research, and a product that is primarily research but has involved substantial analysis and interpretation. Publications that fall between the two extremes, and there are many of them, can be assigned to one category or the other only by an act of judgment in some degree arbitrary. Nevertheless, a meaningful inventory of the research being done in the Directorate, it seems, will have to be divided along such imprecise lines into categories. Publications and projects should be omitted from the research inventory if they are primarily reportorial or analytical, if they require a relatively small amount of new investigation, drawing primarily upon a repository of data, facts, and ideas (products of research and analysis) already in being. A number of items on the most recent inventory, it seems to me, could be dropped, using such criteria.

6. Numerous Directorate activities and publications do not fit the above categories but are clearly research. Such

activities have a common purpose, to support or to improve research and analysis capabilities; they may be methodological, experimental, or compilations for reference purposes. Examples are economic model building, ADP support activities and experimental programs, the FBIS themes series, and the CRS reference aids.

7. I suggest, therefore, that research in the Directorate might be divided into three categories for purposes of evaluation and coordination. They would be:

Category A: Research In Depth. Research in this category would involve review and re-evaluation of large amounts of information and data and the testing of facts and interpretations previously accepted or unexplored. Category A research would tend to take a long run perspective; it would usually take a considerable length of time and be focused on a complex, continuing, chronic intelligence problems. Research in this Category would seek to tell a relatively complete story. It would aim at "what", "how", "why", and "so what", in more or less that order.


Category B: Interpretative Research. Research in this category would tend to begin from a point nearer the top of the available data. Analysis and interpretation on the one hand, and research on the

other might be in relatively equal balance and the product and process a combination of the two in terms of data sifted, the scope and complexity of the study and the time allocated. Research in Category B would be primarily interpretative; it would aim first at "why" and "so what", and only secondarily at "what" and "how".

Category C: Experimental and Support Research.

This category of research would include all research activities and publications intended to improve or to support research, analysis or reporting capabilities in the Directorate.

8. I also suggest that Directorate research inventories, if drawn up along the lines suggested above, continue to be divided also into regional areas, and that each regional listing include a two or three paragraph overall statement evaluating or describing research in process on that region.


Chief, DD/I Special Research Staff

30 Apr 76

Ch, IEC -

- Re PIR, Apr 76 "Newly
Identified Military & Industrial
Installations in Orenburg, USSR?

- Interest the format & message
and content:

- Labeled P.I.R.

- Uses B.I.I.R. format on
p. 1.

- To cap it off, the content
looks to me more like
a P.I. Note.

- I detest tossing coins on
something like this -- much
less settling for a bar sinister
compromise.

- Well? 

CL, PSC

30 Apr 75

CL, JEC

- Re DIIR, Apr 75, on
"SSM Track - Facilities -
SCT Missile Test Center:

- The detail and presentation
of the detail which went into
this Basic Report is both
comprehensive and relevant -
the best possible combination
of qualities for our customers.
- Well done throughout.

25X1